



## **Procedure: Assessment For Blood Lead Screening For Children**

Functional Area: Certification, Eligibility & Coordination of Services

Section: B 1 g

Approval Date: 01/25/2016

Citation: Policy Memo's: 01-05-P; 93-25-P;2011-5

Revised Date: 07/2015

### **Purpose**

To provide guidance on appropriate screening for, referrals to, and documentation of elevated blood lead levels in children.

### **Blood Lead Screening Requirement**

Federal Regulations require that during a certification visit for a child, the authorized representative must be asked if the child has had a blood lead screening test.

- A blood lead screening test involves obtaining a blood sample to test for elevated blood lead levels.
- Being asked questions regarding the child's lead exposure risk (such as if the child lives in a house built before 1950, etc) is not the same as a screening test.

### **Assessment and Documentation of Blood Lead Screening Test**

As part of the nutrition risk assessment, questions on lead level measurement are included on the Blood Panel in Journey.

Indicate using the drop down if the child has been tested for lead in the last 12 months.

- Yes, No or Unknown

If a test has been performed, use the drop down list indicate if the lead level was 10 ug/dl or higher.

- Yes, No or Unknown
- If the measurement value is known, indicate in the lead level field.

A screenshot of a form titled "Lead Level Measurement". It contains three input fields: "Tested For Lead In The Last Year" with a dropdown arrow, "Lead Level 10 ug/dl or Higher" with a dropdown arrow, and "Lead Level (ug/dl)" with a text input box.

### **Referral**

If a test has not been performed or is unknown:

- Refer the child to their primary care physician to obtain a test, or refer to a local Lead Screening program.
- Document the referral in Journey
- Offer appropriate nutrition education.

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**Nutrition Education**

If a child has been found to have elevated blood lead levels, appropriate nutrition education could include:

- Referring the participant to lead treatment programs
- Emphasizing the use of foods high in iron and calcium which help to alleviate the effects of elevated blood lead levels
- Assisting in developing an appropriate plan for nutrition intervention, in coordination with the healthcare provider
- Providing information on how to reduce exposure to lead

For participants who have not had a blood lead screening test, or do not have elevated blood lead levels, provide information about lead poisoning prevention.

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**Blood Lead Screening  
For Medicaid  
Participants**

Current Federal law requires that all children enrolled in Medicaid be screened for lead at age 12 months and 24 months (or through 72 months if the child has not been previously screened) as part of Medicaid's early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) requirement.

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**WIC Allowable Costs**

WIC nutrition services and administration (NSA) funds are not allowed to be used to conduct blood lead screening tests.

A hematological test for anemia, such as hemoglobin, is the only laboratory test required to determine a person's eligibility for WIC, and is the only laboratory cost that is an allowed cost.

For further clarification of WIC allowable costs related to blood lead screening tests contact the State WIC Administrative Operations Coordinator. It is not intended that WIC Local Agencies perform the blood lead test.

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